**Newsday**
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**Anthony Marro**
Managing Editor

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Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Please excuse my delay in answering your letter. To be honest, I kept putting it off because I wasn't sure how to reply.

I probably should jump at your offer, but I'm not sure that in good conscience I can. Trying to manage this place (with 495 editorial employees) is far more than a full-time job; except for an occasional book review, I'm doing no reporting or writing at all. And I'm not sure I could persuade my bosses that it is worth the commitment of time and enthusiam to do this project, or persuade the people that would have to work it that this is where they should be putting their efforts. I think it is a terribly important story, that still needs to be told. If I were off on my own, looking for a project (maybe even a life's work), I'd have been in my car on on my way to Frederick long before now. But I'm not, and I don't expect to be, and I would not want to mislead you by suggesting that I can take on a project that I might not be able to see to fruition. And to be honest, I think the paper itself needs to focus its investigative resources on major current stories, most of them not yet told by anyone, that impact immediately on the lives of the people who read us.

At the same time, both I and Les Payne, who is national editor here, have been trying to talk ourselves into feeling you out further on your offer.

Can we do this? If you cannot find anyone else who you think can and should take what you already have gathered as the basis for starting another serious investigation of Watergate, write or call me again, and we'll reconsider. I think it should be done. And I think your work should get into the hands of someone who will use it intelligently. But I am fearful that I would be starting something that, at this point in my life, I couldn't follow through on, and at the same time would be preventing someone else from doing it. I would not want this to happen.

Best wishes,

Tony Marro